



ENERGY MANAGEMENT

WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

Hotels use significant amounts of energy for daily operations and recreational activities. In many facilities, energy costs are the second-highest operational costs after payroll. This high demand for energy is often due to the use of energy-intensive technology to provide modern comforts and conveniences, such as air conditioning, to large numbers of guests. The vast majority of hotels and resorts meet their energy needs by purchasing energy produced through the burning of fossil fuels (coal, oil and natural gas), which contribute to local air pollution and global climate change. The extraction, refining and transport of fossil fuels can also cause environmental damage. Improvements in housekeeping and efficiency measures and use of renewable energy can decrease dependency on energy produced through fossil fuels.

WHY SHOULD I CARE?

- Investments in more efficient energy use and improved housekeeping practices can lead to significant reductions in operating costs and energy bills, with relatively short payback periods. The average 300-room hotel spends an estimated \$1.2 million per year on energy.
- Using renewable energy can reduce local air pollution, maintain destination quality and enhance the guest experience.
- Energy efficiency and conservation practices can enhance reputation among guests and others who are concerned about reducing global energy consumption and the effects of climate change.

WHAT CAN I DO?

- Start by assessing existing energy use to determine where the highest energy consumption takes place within your premises and the most likely places for efficiency improvements.
- Continue to regularly monitor your energy consumption. Daily or weekly monitoring of energy use helps to identify abnormal consumption and to quantify energy savings when efficient equipment is installed or a good practice is implemented.
- Encourage guests to follow energy-saving practices, such as switching off lights and air conditioning, closing window shades before leaving their rooms and using towels or linens for more than one day.
- Work with employees to identify energy-saving practices, such as lowering heating or air conditioning to a fixed temperature when cleaning the room, or operating dryers and dishwashers only with full loads. If you have a swimming pool, turn off the pump in the evening.
- Regularly monitor and service all equipment, to ensure that it is running as efficiently as possible. Upgrade older, inefficient equipment or replace with newer technology.
- Use products that require less energy to maintain, such as colored sheets and towels or eco-labeled cotton products that can be laundered at lower temperatures.
- Use sensors and timers to turn off unnecessary lights in intermittent-use areas, such as meeting rooms, storage areas and public and staff bathrooms.
- Reduce the number of elevators and escalators running during times of low use.
- When feasible, use renewable energy sources, such as biogas, wind or solar power.
- Contact national environmental protection agencies involved in promoting renewable energy and energy-saving measures for help in implementing an energy management plan. The UNEP Energy Programme provides advanced information on available renewable energy technologies (www.uneptie.org/energy).